

MARINE AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON-2  
 Marine Wing Headquarters Group-1  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMF, Pacific  
 %FPO, San Francisco, California, 96601

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5750

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9 December 1965

FORM 3 6 1965

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From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commanding Officer, Marine Wing Headquarters Group-1

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2  
 (b) MCO 5750.1  
 (c) ForceO 3121.1B  
 (d) NAVMC 1110 United States Marine Corps Staff Manual

DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEARS FROM DATE  
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 11 YEARS  
 DOD DIR 5060.10

1. ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

## a. SUBORDINATE UNITS:

- (1) DEVASTATE Alpha - AN/TPQ-10 system #11 located at CHU LAI, RVN.
- (2) DEVASTATE Bravo - AN/TPQ-10 system #2 located at DA NANG airbase, RVN.
- (3) DEVASTATE Charlie - AN/TPQ-10 system #6 located at CHU LAI, RVN.
- (4) DEVASTATE Delta - AN/TPQ-10 system #17 located at DA NANG, RVN.
- (5) Metro - A mobile weather station located at CHU LAI, RVN, transferred custody to MABS-12.
- (6) LANDSHARK - DASC - located at DA NANG, RVN.
- (7) LANDSHARK Alpha - DASC - located at CHU LAI, RVN.

## b. PERIOD COVERED: 1 November through 30 November 1965

c. Commanding Officer:  
 Executive Officer:  
 Operations Officer:

Landshark "A" OIC:  
 Devastate "A" OIC:  
 Devastate "B" OIC:  
 Devastate "C" OIC:  
 Devastate "D" OIC:

LtCol. R. L. CUNNINGHAM  
 Major D. C. BRIDEN  
 Major J. R. EDDY  
 Captain E. L. BROWN  
 First Lieutenant F. H. KOS  
 First Lieutenant F. A. FINIZIO  
 Captain G. S. PRESCOTT  
 First Lieutenant F. A. FINIZIO

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Administrative Officer	Captain S. J. DOHERTY
Supply Officer:	Captain L. D. HARPOLD
Communications Officer	Captain D. A. POWELL
Intelligence Officer:	First Lieutenant J. J. YOUNG
Motor Transport Officer:	Captain L. J. MORTON

d. The average strength of MASS-2 during the month of November was 40 USMC Officers, 200 Enlisted, 2 NAVY Enlisted and 1 civilian technical representative employed by GENERAL ELECTRIC.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS AS THEY OCCURED CHRONOLOGICALLY

### a. 1 Nov:

- (1) DEVASTATE 6 visited Chu Lai and returned to Da Nang.
- (2) DEVASTATE 6 visited Air Liaison Officer, 7th Marines for Operation BLACK FERRET planning.
- (3) DEVASTATE 6 visited Commanding Officer 2nd LAAM to plan support for HAWK Missile shoot in December.

### b. 2 Nov:

- (1) MASS-2 metro unit located at Pleiku made successful soundings to a maximum altitude of 70,000 feet.
- (2) LIFESAVER 6 and Major General DAVIS, USAF, visited the DASC and TPQ-10 at Da Nang, for a short brief on each system by the Senior Air Director and the duty TPQ-10 controller.
- (3) Four Officers and fourteen Enlisted flew to Chu Lai to man the mobile DASC, Landshark "B", for Operation BLACK FERRET.
- (4) DEVASTATE 6, accompanied by the MASS-2 survey team, consisting of four enlisted men, travelled to Phu Bai and returned. Performed initial liaison with Commanding Officer, 3rd battalion, 4th Marines, OIC Det. "A", MACS-7, and OIC I Battery 4th battalion 12th Marines. Located and surveyed a site for an ASRT. This site was located near the 4th battalion 12th Marines, and there will be no radar interference between MACS-7 and MASS-2. The site is available for occupancy at any time.

### c. 3 Nov:

- (1) MASS-2 metro unit up, successful soundings made to a maximum altitude of 30,000 feet.
- (2) 1stLt F. H. KOS relieved Captain D. E. ANDERSON as Officer-In-Charge of DEVASTATE "A".

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(3) LANDSHARK "B" operational at 1310H and operating the following nets; TAR-1, HD-4, TAD-5.

d. 4 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "B" operational and operating on TAG, TAR-2, TAR (UHF), PURPLE and PINK. The DASC controlled one fixed wing mission, six helo missions, two Med Evacs and took thirty-two fixed wing RIO's.

e. 5 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "B" ceased operation at 1500H. Control of Air was passed to LANDSHARK "A". At 1358H departed the operation area and returned to Chu Lai, arriving at 1630H.

(2) Conducted a ground defence drill at 0900H and 1500H at Da Nang.

f. 6 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK non-operational due to power failure, from 1620 to 1820. 60 cycle generator problems are critical. Only two out of eight 60 cycle generators are operating.

g. 7 Nov:

(1) LIFESAVER 6 and the Wing Inspector visited DEVASTATE "D" at Pleiku.

(2) DEVASTATE "A" dropped 8 MK-81's on wrong coordinates at BT 4600075, a friendly village. Incident will be investigated.

h. 8 Nov:

(1) All AN/TPQ-10 missions cancelled due to weather at Chu Lai.

i. 9 Nov:

(1) Two Officers and six Enlisted departed from Da Nang to Chu Lai to man the mobile DASC, (LANDSHARK "B"), for Phase I of operation BLUE MARLIN.

j. 10 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "B" (Mobile DASC), on operation BLUE MARLIN, was helo lifted in position at 1600H and assumed control of air from LANDSHARK "A" at 1800H.

k. 12 Nov:

(1) MASS-2 commenced to move the Da Nang DASC, squadron headquarters, and service elements, to their new location in the vicinity of the 3rd Marine Division Command Post.

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l. 14 Nov:

(1) MASS-2 has been moving for the past 24 hours and communications with all subunits is not as yet established. 75% of the move has been completed.

(2) LtGen HEINTGE, USA, visited the Da Nang DASC and was briefed on DASC operations by SAD.

m. 15 Nov:

(1) DEVASTATE "C" and "D" are displacing from Pleiku to Chu Lai and Da Nang.

(2) The Squadron has completed approximately 80% of its move to the new location.

n. 16 Nov:

(1) DEVASTATE 6 visited Pleiku.

(2) LANDSHARK "B" on Phase II of Operation BLUE MARLIN.

o. 17 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "X" was launched in support of Vietnamese Army Operation OT-152, 18 miles southwest of Quang Ngai.

p. 18 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "X" airborne at 0700. Two Officers and two Enlisted aboard. LANDSHARK "X" landed 2110H.

q. 19 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "X" operational at 0700. Returned at 1340, refueled and launched at 1520. Homeplate at 1730.

(2) DEVASTATE 6 returned from Pleiku via Chu Lai.

r. 20 Nov:

(1) About 1300H LANDSHARK "B" returned from Phase II of operation BLUE MARLIN.

(2) DEVASTATE 6 on R&R to OKINAWA.

(3) B-57 brief on AN/TPQ-10 operations was cancelled.

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s. 21 Nov:

(1) LANDSHARK "X" on standby from 0945H to 1430H at Marine Air Freight, on one hour call.

t. 23 Nov:

(1) At 0815H, the DASC airborne was on station for the control of aircraft during operation QUANG NGAI SOUTH. At 1745H the DASC airborne was cleared to homeplate.

u. 24 Nov:

(1) MOMENT 6A visited LANDSHARK "A".

(2) DEVASTATE "B" conducted ground defence drill at 1400H.

v. 25 Nov:

(1) DEVASTATE 5 addressed the squadron with a 10 minute speech on Viet Nam and the Marine Corps mission here.

w. 27 Nov:

(1) All AN/TPQ-10 missions for DEVASTATE "A" were cancelled due to high winds at Chu Lai affecting the A4 launch capabilities.

x. 29 Nov:

(1) LIFESAVER 6 visited LANDSHARK.

### 3. NARRATIVE SUMMARIES

#### a. ADMINISTRATION

(1) During the month of November, 2 Officers and 1 Enlisted rotated to CONUS.

(2) One Officer joined the squadron from Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va., and one Enlisted departed on Emergency leave.

(3) Two non-judicial punishments took place during November.

(4) All quotas for the R&R program have been filled, 25 to OKINAWA, 1 to HONG KONG, 5 to BANGKOK and 10 to SAIGON.

(5) There were 4 Meritorious Mast, 1 Award Recommendation and 9 Staff NCOs recommended for commissioned Rank.

(6) There were 2 Promotions to the rank of Captain during the month of November.

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b. INTELLIGENCE

(1) During the past month the Intelligence Section was disrupted by the Squadrons move to its new location. In coordination with the ground defence officer, the section supervised the security of the Squadron during, and for several days following, the move. The section ascertained the DASC participating on operations in the field, as well as airborne, had the proper maps and all available information required. The Intelligence Officer participated in the second phase of Operation BLUE MARLIN. The Intelligence Chief accompanied a DASC Airborne, and went on one aerial reconnaissance by helicopter to locate targets for AN/TPQ-10 calibration. Presently the Intelligence section is engaged in updating the Squadron's security clearance program, reviewing all Squadron Orders, and removing superfluous material from its files.

c. OPERATIONS

(1) Subordinate detachments of the Squadron which have been sited prior to the month of November continue to function normally.

(2) The two AN/TPQ-10 systems located at Pleiku, system 6 and 17, have been moved to Chu Lai and Da Nang respectively. Both systems were air lifted from Pleiku during the latter part of November. System 6 is awaiting the commencement of the LAAM Missile shoot during December at Chu Lai, when it will track the drone targets during the shoot. System 17 at Da Nang is inoperative, awaiting rehabilitation.

(3) The DASC at Da Nang, LANDSHARK, coordinated and controlled 592 helicopter missions, 223 fixed wing missions and 139 Medical Evacuation missions. At Chu Lai, LANDSHARK "A", was responsible for the coordination and control of 602 helicopter missions, 211 fixed wing missions and 67 Medical Evacuation missions. The Air Support Radar Teams continue to harass enemy positions in the Chu Lai and Da Nang areas. At Chu Lai, DEVASTATE "A", controlled 214 bombing missions and dropped 48 MK-64s, 11 MK-83s, 196 MK-82s, 406 AN/M-57s, and 1295 MK-81s. DEVASTATE "B" at Da Nang controlled 157 bombing missions resulting in the expenditure of 8 750lb. bombs, 24 MK-64s, 671 MK-81s, 36 MK-83s and 297 MK-82s. DEVASTATE "D" while at Pleiku controlled 30 missions dropping 44 AN/M-57As, 97 MK-82s and 205 MK-81s.

(4) LANDSHARK "B", the mobile DASC, participated in two exercises during November: Operation BLACK FERRET and Operation BLUE MARLIN. On Operation BLACK FERRET, LANDSHARK "B" joined the 7th Marines motor march to the objective area and was in the field from 3 November to 5 November. Air operations in this operation were light. BLUE MARLIN was a two phase operation. Phase I running from 9 November to 13 November, and Phase II from 14 November to 18 November. Landshark "B" was hoisted into the objective areas during both phases.

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(5) LANDSHARK "X"ray, the Airborne DASCy launched on three separate occasions. The DASC controlled air operations in the Tam Ky area and Quang Ngai area.

d. LOGISTICS, INCLUDING SERVICES, SUPPLY, AND MOTOR TRANSPORT

(1) The logistics situation within MASS-2 remains largely unchanged. Although supply support continues to meet normal garrison replenishment demands, it remains hampered by excessive lead time and transportation delays. These delays are seriously affecting the receipt of critically needed motor transport and generator repair parts. Significant supply support changes since the last report include the termination of RAWINSONDE meteorological supplies requirements, and a large increase in class IV requisitions. The RAWINSONDE meteorological unit was transferred from this unit on 22 November 1965, and the increase in class IV demands is a result of the fortification effort presently underway at the Squadrons new location.

(2) Motor transport and generator support is entering a critical phase due to the unprecedented high failure rate of this equipment. This situation is caused by extremely heavy operating schedules, excessive equipment age, and nearly impassable roads, which have prevented speedy on-site repair of equipment. Vital repair and replacement parts are experiencing intolerably long shipment/delivery times and this factor further complicates an already serious maintenance problem.

(3) Embarkation readiness is currently being improved with the updating of Squadron Vehicle and Cargo Manifest information.

e. COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS

(1) The stock of UHF parts on hand has increased, and the time from order to arrival of parts has been decreased.

(2) A UHF radio check was held to determine blank communication spots between helicopters operating out of Marble Mountain Air Facility and the DASC at Da Nang. A satisfactory check was held and the necessary data obtained to correct the communication difficulty for helicopters operating to the North and South of Marble Mountain.

(3) Supply support for AN/TPQ-10 continues to improve. It is recommended that MASS-2 eventually establish a maintenance float at each ASRT site.

(4) First Marine Aircraft Wing is preparing an order directing MAG-16 to support MASS-2 in Da Nang area, and MAG-36 will support the Chu Lai area, for repairs on the ARC 52 radios.

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f. NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL DEFENSE

(1) The Squadron possesses all required equipment and trained personnel for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defense. Also, time is provided for such basic training as; mask drills, care of masks, and the proper alert and all-clear signals.

(2) All electronic detection equipment has been inspected and properly calibrated.

g. GROUND DEFENSE

(1) The Squadron's new site in the vicinity of hill 268, has two exposed flanks. Upon MASS-2's arrival, personnel turned to clearing heavy brush and laying triple concertina wire on these two exposed flanks. The entire location is planned to be encircled by barbed wire. Six strategic bunkers have been erected to cover the squadron's position. The principal line of fire is directed towards these exposed flanks. The bunkers are manned by two men from dusk to dawn and are in contact with the Commander of the Guard by Land Line. The personnel manning the bunkers report to the Commander of the Guard each half hour.

(2) A command bunker is planned on the high ground adjacent to the Officers living area overlooking the entire Squadron position.

(3) Reaction drills are planned to train all Squadron personnel in their specific duties in the event of enemy attack.

R. L. CUNNINGHAM JR.

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